

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/807,593

Examiner

David D. Le

Applicant(s)

USORO ET AL.

Art Unit

3681

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 04 August 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-15.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 24 March 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 03/24/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is the first Office action on the merits of Application No. 10/807,593, filed on 24 March 2004. Claims 1-15 are pending.

Documents

2. The following documents have been received and filed as part of the patent application:
 - Information Disclosure Statement, received on 03/24/04

Election/Restrictions

3. Claims 1, 3-4, and 6-14 are directed to an allowable product. Claims 2, 5, and 15 hereby rejoined and fully examined for patentability under 37 CFR 1.104.

Since all claims previously withdrawn from consideration under 37 CFR 1.142 have been rejoined, the restriction requirement made in the Office action mailed on 06 July 2005 is hereby withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-15 are allowed.
5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1 and 6:

The prior art of record fails to show or render obvious a multi-speed transmission comprising an input shaft, an output shaft, three planetary gear sets, two interconnecting

member, a stationary member, and seven torque-transmitting mechanisms, as recited in the claims; specifically, wherein the input shaft is continuously interconnected with a member of the third planetary gear set, the output shaft is continuously interconnected with another member of the third planetary gear set, the first interconnecting member continuously interconnects the first member of the first planetary gear set with the first member of the second planetary gear set and with the stationary member, and the seven torque-transmitting mechanisms are engaged in combinations of two to establish at least eight forward speed ratios and at least one reverse speed ratio between the input shaft and the output shaft.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Miyazaki et al. (U. S. Patent No. 6,887,178) teaches an automatic transmission as shown in Figs. 1a and 1b.
- Ziemer (U. S. Patent No. 6,634,980) teaches a multi-step transmission as shown in Figs. 8-11.

- Gaus (U. S. Patent No. 4,395,925) teaches a planetary gear change-speed transmission as shown in Figs. 1 and 2.
- Raghavan et al. (U. S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2005/0113206) teaches an eight speed transmission with planetary gear sets as shown in Figs. 1a and 1b.
- Ziemer (U. S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2004/0048716) teaches a multi-step reduction gear as shown in Figs. 10A and 10B.
- Ziemer (U. S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2004/0097324) teaches a multi-step reduction gear as shown in Figs. 12A and 12B.
- WO 02/079670 A2 teaches a multi-step reduction gear as shown in Figs. 12A and 12B.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David D. Le whose telephone number is 571-272-7092. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (0700-1530).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles A. Marmor can be reached on 571-272-7095. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 3681

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Charles A Marm 8/19/05
CHARLES A. MARMO
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
ART UNIT 3681